(c) what are the dates of sending the panels to the SLC-cum-Secretary, OSB, Punjab and what action has been taken against this violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The merit panels in all the six cases in question were received by the SLC-cum-Secretary, OSB, on or before July 10, 1995, and despatched to the concerned oil companies on July 10, 1995, for further action. The delay in finalising the merit panels by the OSB is being looked into.

Guidelines to State Govts. on the Treatment to Tribals

355. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governemnt have conveyed any guidelines to State Governments on the treatment to be meted out to tribals living in remote forests for centureis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some State Governmetns are not respecting tribals rights to continue to stay in tribal villages, and

(c) what steps are proposed to ensure that tribals are not harassed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes Sir. Detailed guidelines on'Tribal Forest Interface' to State Governments and Union Territories have been issued in September, 1990.

(b) No report has been received regarding non-recognition of tribal rights by any State Government.

(c) Following steps are being taken to protect interests and rights of tribals and forest dwellers.

(i) In order to prevent degradation of forests, contract system would be completely removed and be replaced by institutions such as Tribal Co-operatives, Labour Co-operatives and Governemnt Corporations for harvesting of forest produce.

(ii) Protection, regeneration and collection of Minor Forest Produce along with institutional arrangements for the marketing of such produce.

(iii) Development of forest villages on par with revenue villages.

(2) Indian Forest Act, 1927 provides for legal recognition of rights and concessions for tribals and forest dewellers.

(3) Central Government is committed to policy of Joint Forest Management for protection and development of forest resources with active participation of local people.

"Efforts to Minimise Pollution by Old Vehicles"

356. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of already registered vehicles in four Metropolitan cities which do not and cannot be fitted with Catalytic Converters for using unleaded petrol; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to minimise pollution levels of these already licensed old vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The total number of registered petrol vehicles in the four major metropolitan cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras as on 31st March 1994 is given below:

METRO	TOTAL VEHICLES (In lakhs)
Delhi	22.39
Bombay	6.08
Calcutta	7.16
Madras	6.89